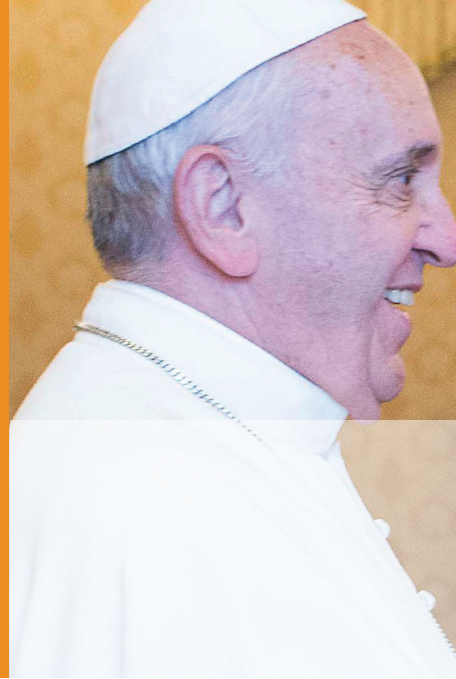




# YOU AND I TELL OTHERS OF JESUS

## **The Text** (Luke 1:39-45,56)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [...] And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.



## **The Message**

When I was a teenager, I learned to sing a version of the prayer of St Teresa of Avila: "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours." Those words have stuck with me all my life. Often, when I am in a rush and have to decide whether to help someone or walk on by, I hear these words in my head, "yours are his hands; yours are his feet."

Whenever I watch Pope Francis and think about the witness he is for me, the words of this prayer come back, "yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on the world, yours are the feet with which he walks to do good, yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world." Pope Francis is an interesting man to consider. He has written lots of very good material. But when I think of how he tells the world about Jesus, it isn't through his writing, and it isn't really through words – although he says a lot. No! The way that Pope Francis tells us about Jesus is through his actions. Every gesture of mercy, every act of kindness, every

moment of washing feet or installing showers for the homeless or visiting refugees teaches people about Jesus. His actions are so powerful and clear that words are hardly necessary.

That's exactly what God asks of you and me. God asks that we proclaim the Good News by our actions, by the witness of our lives. We only use words where necessary. Look around you. The Gospel is being proclaimed all around us, if we only have eyes to see and ears to hear. Let's look at some examples. My friend Jim volunteers with Meals on Wheels. Three days a week, he brings lunch to ten house-bound people. He could just drop the meal and run, but he stays for a little visit, brings some news, asks about loved ones, makes a few jokes, and his clients love him. Jim proclaims the Good News on these visits. He never opens a Bible, never says a prayer with these people, but they all know that they have walked in the presence of light and love. My friend Gerry visits inmates in the penitentiary. Gerry used to be a journalist, and now he is teaching some adult men to read and



write. They have started a prison newsletter. You can see the pride and joy in their faces. They all know that they have encountered goodness and kindness in Gerry. He has proclaimed the Gospel by his actions. My friend Marie makes sundresses out of pillowcases for children in Haiti. When they wear the dresses, they know that someone far away has been thinking of them, and has shown them love, without even knowing their names. Marie has proclaimed the Good News.

How do you proclaim the Good News? How do you tell others of Jesus? You do this by the way you live your life. You do it by feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick or the imprisoned, and burying the dead. When you do these things, you show others the face of Jesus, and you proclaim the Good News, the Gospel. Christ has no body now, but yours. He has no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are his eyes, gazing on people with compassion. Yours are his feet as you go forth into the world. You are a messenger of Good News. You

are a missionary disciple. And you don't necessarily have to say anything. It's who you are, what you do. You are a missionary disciple of Jesus in the world today.

**"Here let me say a word to fiancés. Have the courage to be different. Don't let yourselves get swallowed up by a society of consumption and empty appearances. What is important is the love you share, strengthened and sanctified by grace."**

*Francis, Bishop of Rome (The Joy of Love - §212)*



**MARY, WOMAN  
PREGNANT WITH HOPE,  
BRING US ALL TO JESUS. AMEN.**